

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1 and 4 have been cancelled, claims 2, 5-7, 10-14 and 16-19 have been amended, and claims 20-22 have been added. Thus, claims 2, 3 and 5-22 are now active in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

The specification and abstract have been carefully reviewed and revised to correct grammatical and idiomatic errors in order to aid the Examiner in further consideration of the application. The amendments to the specification and abstract are incorporated in the attached substitute specification and abstract. No new matter has been added.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and Abstract by the current amendment. The attachment is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made.**"

In item 1 on page 2 of the Office Action, the Abstract of the Disclosure was objected to for including implied information, such as "the invention presents." Accordingly, the Abstract has been revised to avoid such implied information.

In item 2 on page 2 of the Office Action, the disclosure was objected to because, at page 5, lines 1-16, the same information as included in the "Brief Description of the Drawings" was repeated. Accordingly, these lines have been canceled.

In item 3 on page 2 of the Office Action, claims 4, 5, 10, 14 and 15 were objected to because the phrase "the raised faces" in claims 4, 5, 10 and 15, and the phrase "raised faces" in claim 14 lacked antecedent basis. This has been corrected since independent claim 20 now recites "first and second raised faces." Also, in claim 14, the phrase "raised faces" has been changed to "--the first and second raised faces". Further, claim 4 has been canceled.

In items 4-7 on pages 3-6 of the Office Action, claims 1, 4, 5-7, 10-13 and 17 were rejected to under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Azima et al. (U.S. 6,324,052); claims 2, 3, 8, 9, 16, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Azima et al. in view of Nozawa et al. (U.S. 6,367,324); claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as

being unpatentable over Azima et al. in view of Ohashi et al. (U.S. 6,809,927); claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Azima et al. in view of Smith et al. (U.S. 5,847,922); and claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Azima et al. in view of Markow (U.S. 6,304,434). These rejections are respectfully traversed in part, and are believed clearly inapplicable to the claims as now presented, for the following reasons.

With exemplary reference to the drawing figures, new independent claim 20 sets forth a portable information processing apparatus comprising: a main body 1; a display unit 3 foldably attached to the main body 1 and incorporating a display panel 4; wherein the display unit 3 has a rear casing 7; wherein a speaker unit 5 is contained between the rear casing 7 and the display panel 4; wherein the rear casing 7 has an uneven surface (e.g. see Fig. 2) with first and second raised faces 7a; and wherein first sound release holes 7b are provided in each of the first and second raised faces 7a of the uneven surface of the rear casing 7 for releasing sound from the speaker unit 5.

The Azima patent discloses a notebook type personal computer constituting a portable information processing apparatus and, as indicated by the Examiner, the Azima et al. device includes a main body 137, a display unit 130 foldable attached to the main body 137 and incorporating a display panel 129, and wherein the display unit 130 includes a rear casing 155 (or 167, 168), and wherein a speaker unit 9 is contained between the rear casing and the display panel.

However, contrary to the present invention as recited in claim 20, the Azima et al. patent does not disclose or suggest that the rear casing of its display unit has an uneven surface with first and second raised faces, wherein first sound release holes are provided in each of the first and second raised faces of the uneven surface of the rear casing for releasing sound from the speaker unit.

In the second paragraph in item 5 on page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner stated that "Azima et al. further teaches a rear casing with a raised uneven surface (40) as exemplified in

Fig. 3 for installation of the speaker with sound releasing holes (170) therein (see Fig. 2b)."

Although the Examiner is correct that the Azima et al. patent discloses (in Fig. 2b) the sound release holes 170 formed in the rear casing, these sound release holes 170 are formed in the cover members 167, 168 "to render the cover members (167, 168) acoustically transparent" (see column 3, lines 23-26); there is no disclosure or suggestion in the Azima et al. patent of providing the sound release holes 170 in the flat plate elements 40 that are hinged by hinges 34 to the outer surface of the generally conventional lid 131 (see column 3, lines 35-41). In fact, apertures 170, referred to by the Examiner as sound release holes, are part of a different embodiment (Fig. 2b) than are the flat plate elements 40 (Figs. 3, 3a), in the Azima et al. patent.

Thus, for the above reasons, it is believed apparent that the invention now specified in claim 20 is clearly not anticipated by the Azima et al. patent.

The Examiner cited the Nozawa et al. patent for teaching the use of the mesh like waterproof sheet 30; the Ohashi et al. patent for teaching forming the display case out of magnesium alloy; the Smith et al. patent for teaching the use of a speaker coupled to an audio amplifier; and the Markow patent for teaching the use of piezoelectric speakers in a portable computer. However, these additional references clearly provide no teaching or suggestion that would have obviated the above-discussed shortcomings of the Azima et al. patent.

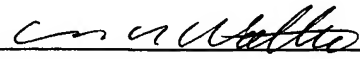
Accordingly, in view of the above discussion, there is clearly no teaching or suggestion in the prior art references of record which would have motivated a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the Azima et al. patent or to make any combination of the references of record in such manner as to result in or otherwise render obvious the present invention of claim 20. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 20, as well as claims 2, 3 and 5-22 which depend therefrom, are clearly allowable over the prior art of record.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance. An early notice thereof is earnestly solicited.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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